

Message

From: Stoker, Michael B. [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=DCB64B4E7EDF48AABE8EF43996A4652E-STOKER, MIC]
Sent: 3/4/2019 8:57:19 PM
To: Gray, Alexander B. EOP/NSC [Alexander.B.Gray@nsc.eop.gov]
CC: Morrell, Jenny L [MorrellJL@state.gov]; McCarroll, John [McCarroll.John@epa.gov]; Williams, Zainabu [WilliamsZZ@state.gov]; Walter, Jesse C [WalterJC@state.gov]; Dean, Nicholas J [DeanNJ@state.gov]
Subject: Re: Environmental disaster in Solomon Islands after oil spill at World Heritage site

Thanks for the update Alex. EPA is here to provide assistance if needed.

Michael Stoker
EPA Regional Administrator-Region 9

Cell Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

On Mar 4, 2019, at 12:24 PM, Gray, Alexander B. EOP/NSC <Alexander.B.Gray@nsc.eop.gov> wrote:

Hi all,

Matt Pottinger and I were in SI on Saturday and Sunday and the PM did not raise in a two hour meeting. The Australians were very focused on this but also didn't indicate any desire for US help. Just sharing what we learned on the ground. Might be worth formally inquiring with SI on their needs.

Alex

Alexander B. Gray
Director for Oceania & Indo-Pacific Security
National Security Council
Tel: 202-881-8544

On Mar 5, 2019, at 3:04 AM, Morrell, Jenny L <MorrellJL@state.gov> wrote:

Hi John,

It was great to meet you in person finally last week!

Thanks for the heads up on this ship leak in the Solomon Islands. I've copied in a few more folks from my office, including the Solomon Islands desk officer Zainabu Williams.

At this stage, we're not aware of any requests for assistance from the Solomon Islands government. It appears from open source reporting that the Australians may have been asked to help and are stepping in to do so. Zainabu is checking with post overnight. We will let you know if we hear anything further.

Thanks,
Jenny

Jenny Morrell (Formerly Wright)
Pacific Islands Multilateral Officer
Office of Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Island Affairs (ANP)
Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs (EAP)

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: McCarroll, John <McCarroll.John@epa.gov>
Sent: Saturday, March 2, 2019 6:22 PM
To: Morrell, Jenny L <MorrellJL@state.gov>
Cc: Stoker, Michael B. <stoker.michael@epa.gov>; Alexander.B.Gray@nsc.eop.gov
Subject: Fw: Environmental disaster in Solomon Islands after oil spill at World Heritage site

Jenny,
Good to connect with you earlier this week while we were in DC.

I wanted to make sure you were aware of this ship leaking oil on a coral reef in the Solomon Islands.

The ship had been loading bauxite from a mine in the Solomons owned by Bintan Mining.

My Regional Administrator Mike Stoker wants you to know that if State Dept is coordinating a USG response in the Solomons, EPA would be willing to help.

Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions or information.

Best regards,
John

John McCarroll, Manager
US EPA Pacific Islands Office
415-972-3774 desk
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) cell

From: Richman, Lance
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2019 5:51 PM
To: McCarroll, John
Cc: Richman, Lance
Subject: Environmental disaster in Solomon Islands after oil spill at World Heritage site

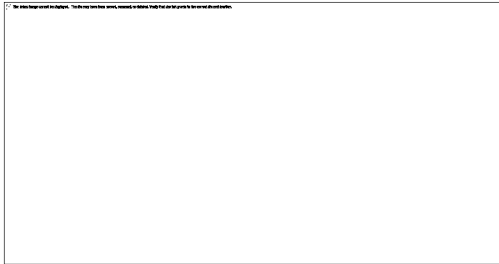
John: I have been following this slow moving disaster. It's looking bad, 80 tons of heavy fuel oil ("HFO") has already leaked into the environment with estimates of over 600 tons still on the vessel.

It would be tough to get anything other than a shallow draft barge alongside the vessel atop the reef to lighten the remaining HFO. Also, I don't see any attempts to contain the oil with boom from the photographs I have seen, maybe none is available on island. I doubt the oil is going to congeal or jell with the warm air and sea temps of the Solomons, it will just keep moving into the environment.

I talked with my US Coast Guard counterpart out in Hawaii. They have been following this since the ship grounded (5Feb) during Cyclone Oma and before it started spilling HFO. He understands from some recent press reports that Australia is mobilizing a limited response via the High Commissioner's Office in Honiara; there has been no talk of any request for US Coast Guard assistance.

Some recent articles and some photos:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/mar/02/solomon-islands-oil-leak-lack-of-night-watch-may-have-caused-ship-to-run-aground>



Solomon Islands
oil leak: lack of
night watch
have caused
to run aground
World news
Guardian

www.theguardian.com

Maritime agency
to possible safety
breach by bulk carrier
pushed onto coral reef
during Cyclone Oma

<http://time.com/5541732/oil-leak-unesco-site-solomon-islands/>

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/solomon-islands-oil-spill-threatens-world-heritage-site>

https://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c_id=2&objectid=12208735

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<image002.jpg>

Regards

Lance

Lance Richman
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24 Hour Oil Spill Response: 1.800.424.8802
